

REMARKS

The indicated allowability of all of the claims except Claims 28, 91, and 92 is noted with appreciation.

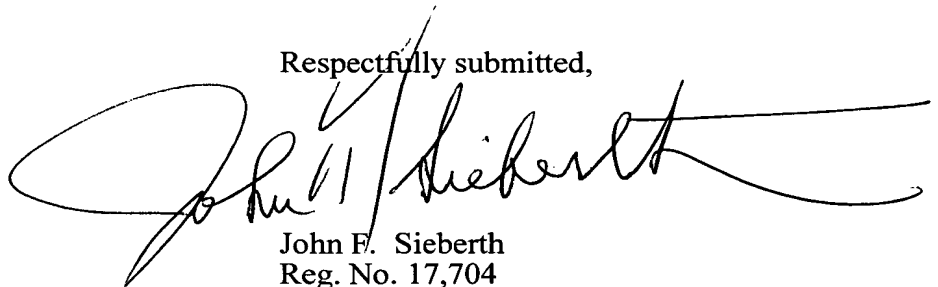
This response is engendered by the 112 rejection suggesting that Claims 28, 91, and 92 are indefinite because of the perceived close spacing between the word "Claim" and the ensuing claim number. Although these dependent claims as presented heretofore are deemed perfectly clear, this makes even clearer that in Claims 28, 91, and 92 the claim number is in fact separated from the word "Claim". Thus the 112 rejection is inapplicable.

This 112 rejection was discussed last week by phone with the Examiner. Despite our efforts to avoid the unnecessary expenditure of time, effort, and money in order to provide more separation between the word "claim" and the ensuing claim number in the 3 rejected dependent claims, the Examiner remained fixed in her position that because of Office procedure she could not make an Examiner's amendment to overcome the perceived problem at the outset. Thus, in order to comply with the Examiner's wishes, this lengthy response involving 22 pages of claims was deemed necessary.

If any matters remain in requiring further consideration, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that such matters can be discussed, and if possible, promptly resolved.

Please continue to address all correspondence in this Application to Mr. Edgar E. Spielman at the address of record.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Sieberth
Reg. No. 17,704
Associate Attorney of Record

Telephone: 225-291-4600
Facsimile: 225-291-4606

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that in accordance with standard business practice, this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is to be deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

3/23/04
Date

